

Chapter 2.4.8 – Scrapie

Article 2.4.8.1

Current proposed text:

Scrapie is a neurodegenerative disease of [the transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) group most commonly reported affecting adult] sheep and goats. The main mode of transmission is from mother to offspring immediately after birth. [It is traditionally recognised that the agent is transmitted horizontally and maternally.] A variation in genetic susceptibility of sheep has been recognised. The *incubation period* of the disease is variable, however it is usually measured in years. The duration in *incubation period* can be influenced by a number of factors including host genetics and strain of agent.

The recommendations in the present chapter are not intended, or sufficient, to manage the risks associated with the potential presence of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy agent in small ruminants.

Standards for diagnostic tests are described in the *Manual*.

...

Suggested text:

Scrapie is a neurodegenerative disease of [the transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) group most commonly reported affecting adult] sheep and goats. The main mode of transmission is from mother to offspring immediately after birth and to other susceptible neonates exposed to the birth fluids and tissues of an infected animal. Transmission occurs at a much lower frequency to adults exposed to the birth fluids and tissues of an infected animal. [It is traditionally recognised that the agent is transmitted horizontally and maternally.] A variation in genetic susceptibility of sheep has been recognised. The *incubation period* of the disease is variable, however it is usually measured in years. The duration in *incubation period* can be influenced by a number of factors including host genetics and strain of agent.

The recommendations in the present chapter are not intended, or sufficient, to manage the risks associated with the potential presence of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy agent in small ruminants.

Standards for diagnostic tests are described in the *Manual*.

...

Rationale: The change, as it is being proposed by the Animal Health Code Commission, is misleading and even undesirable as it implies that a control program for scrapie would be based only on blood lines.